

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
17 July 2003 (17.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 03/058997 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04Q 7/38**

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/IB02/00795**

(22) International Filing Date: **9 January 2002 (09.01.2002)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **NOKIA CORPORATION** [FI/FI]; Keilalahdentie 4, FIN-03260 Espoo (FI).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **KOSKINEN, Juha-Pekka** [FI/FI]; Heinajoenkatu 13, FIN-13210 Hameenlinna (FI). **VALLINEN, Juha, R.** [FI/FI]; Lentokentankatu 36, FIN-33900 Tampere (FI).

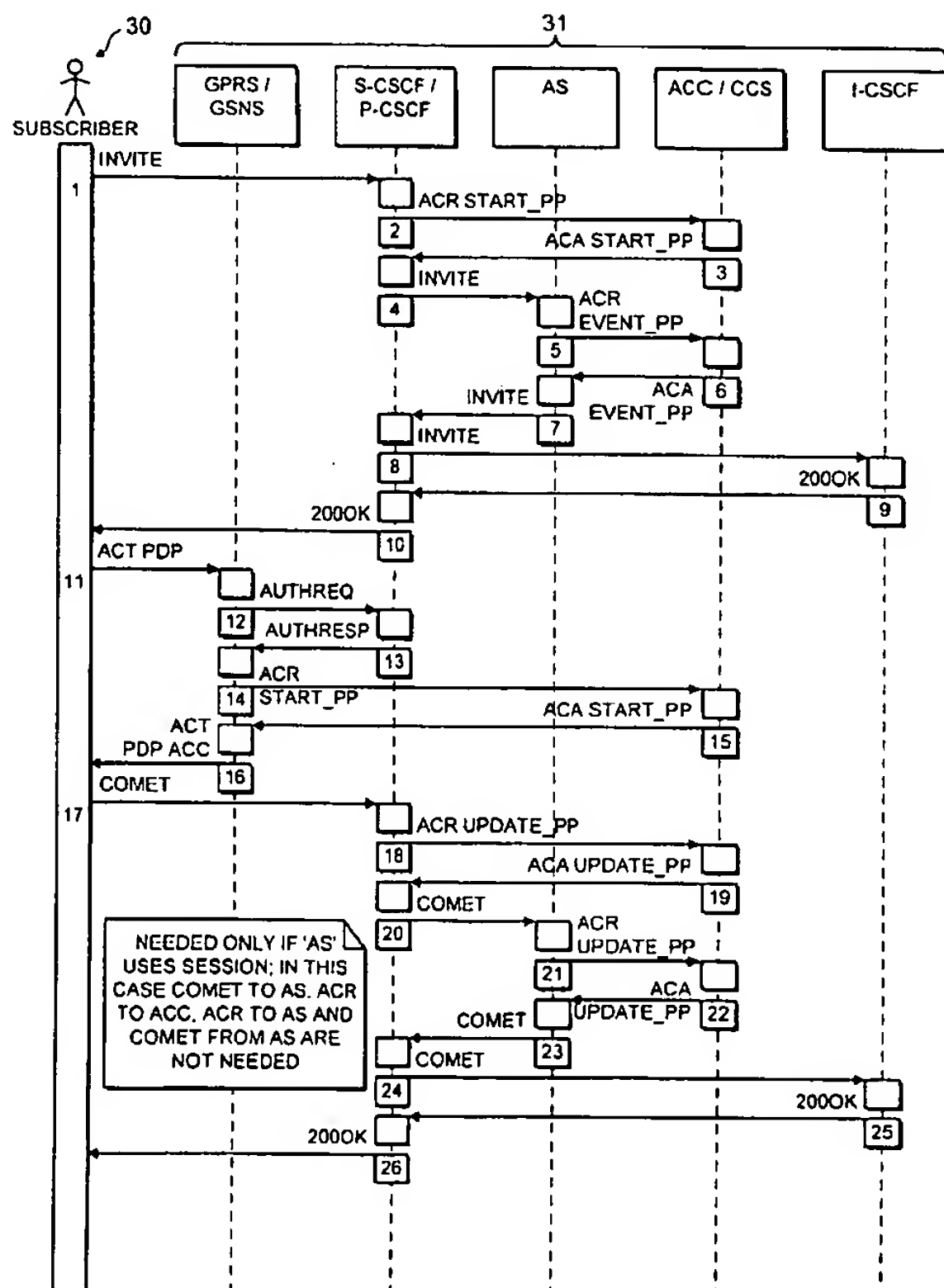
(74) Agents: **STYLE, Kelda, Camilla, Karen et al.**; Page White & Farrer, 54 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LS (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **PREPAID CHARGING IN COMMUNICATION NETWORK**



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for charging against prepaid credit in a communication network. When a first terminal requests establishment of a call to a second terminal, the network ascertains whether prepaid credit is involved. If so, accounting sessions are established between an accounting server and any accounting servers that will raise costs during the call. A session identifier is generated. Once the call is established, charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server, where it is collated on the basis of the accounting session identifier, whereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

WO 03/058997 A1



**Published:**

— with international search report

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## PREPAID CHARGING IN COMMUNICATION NETWORK

### FIELD OF INVENTION

5

This invention relates to charging in communication networks, especially third generation (UMTS) networks.

10

The invention has been developed for use as an extension to the Diameter protocol defined by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), and will be described hereinafter with reference to this application. However, it will be appreciated that the invention can be applied to other similar protocols.

15

### BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Internet Protocol (IP) data transmission is used extensively in third generation (3G) networks. However, IP-related charging protocols and systems are not necessarily capable of providing all the functionality that would be desirable in a mobile telecommunications scenario. Of particular concern is the wide acceptance and use of pre-paid accounts in relation to mobile telephones. Such prepaid accounts are not dealt with in existing IP-related charging systems, largely because IP-communications are, for the most part, not based on prepaid accounting systems. The problem is exacerbated by the unique nature of the signalling and call set-up routines employed in 3G networks, which have no direct correspondence with, for example, internet access via land-based computers.

A protocol known as Diameter has been proposed for use in IP networks. Diameter provides a base protocol that can be extended in order to provide AAA (Authentication, Authorization and Accounting) services. The base  
5 protocol is not intended to be used by itself, and must be used with a Diameter application. Diameter accounting is part of the base protocol and is therefore not intended for use without a Diameter application.

10 Diameter can provide two types of service to applications. The first involves authentication and authorization, with optional accounting functionality. The second involves just accounting.

15 Diameter accounting is based on a server directed model with capabilities for real-time delivery of accounting information. This means that an instance that generates charging data gets information from either the authorization sever (if contacted) or the accounting  
20 server regarding the way accounting data is to be forwarded.

The Diameter accounting protocol provides real-time accounting, meaning the processing of information on  
25 resource usage within a defined time window. Time constraints are typically imposed to limit financial risk.

Diameter does not presently provide for on-line charging.  
30 However, next generation cellular network specify a number of requirements and desirable features for on-line charging. Accounting servers in such networks must be able, for example, to check a subscriber's account for

coverage of the requested service prior to execution of that service. The subscriber's account must be debited each time the subscriber uses the services related to that account. Subscriber must also be prevented from  
5 accessing chargeable events or services related to their specific accounts once the account credit is exhausted or expired.

It is also desirable to allow a mechanism for indicating  
10 to the subscriber the charges to be levied for a chargeable event. Also desirable is the ability to handle multiple charging scenarios, in which different combinations of network entities are simultaneously (or at least during a single call or data generating charges  
15 in relation to the subscriber's account.

It is an object of the invention to provide a method of charging to a prepaid account within a network.

## 20 SUMMARY OF INVENTION

In a first aspect, the present invention provides a method of charging against prepaid credit in communication network, the method comprising the steps  
25 of:

requesting establishment of a call between a first terminal and a second terminal;

ascertaining whether any costs generated by accounting clients in the network, and associated with  
30 the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, establishing an accounting session between an accounting server and the

accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier;

establishing the call with the second terminal;

5        sending charging update data from the accounting client to the accounting server during the call; and

collating the charging update data in the accounting server on the basis of the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during  
10 the call.

Preferably, there are a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call. In that case, accounting sessions are established between each  
15 respective accounting client and the accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established. Charging update data, including the accounting session identifier, are sent from each of the  
20 accounting clients to the accounting server during the call. The charging update information is collated in the accounting server on the basis of the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

25

In a second aspect, the present invention provides communication network apparatus configured to allow charging against prepaid credit in relation to a first terminal, the network including an accounting server and  
30 an accounting client capable of generating costs associated with a service in the network, the network being configured to:

accept a request from the first terminal for establishment of a call between the first terminal and a second terminal;

ascertain whether any costs generated by accounting  
5 clients in the network, and associated with the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, establish an accounting session between the accounting server and the accounting  
10 client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier; and

establish the call with the second terminal;

wherein the accounting client is configured to send  
15 charging update data to the accounting server during the call; and

the accounting server is configured to collate the charging update data on the basis of the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the  
20 prepaid credit during the call.

As with the first aspect, it is preferred that multiple accounting clients exist within the network, and are configured to establish accounting sessions with the  
25 accounting server for relaying charging update data during the call.

In both aspects, each accounting client preferably takes the form of one of the following network entities:

30 SGSN/GGSN;  
S-CSCF/P-CSCF; and  
a network application server.

Typically, the accounting session identifier will be allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

- 5 Preferably, the request for establishment of a call is made via a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message sent from the first terminal.

10 It is particularly preferred that the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server via a Diameter protocol message. More preferably, the charging update data is sent from each accounting client to the accounting client in response to a Diameter protocol update request issued by the  
15 accounting server.

In the preferred embodiment, the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

20

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the  
25 accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a functional block diagram of a third generation communication system;

Figure 2 illustrates data flow between entities of the system of figure 1; and

30 Figure 3 shows the flow of SIP and Diameter protocol data within the network, in accordance with the invention.



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED AND OTHER EMBODIMENTS

Referring to the drawings, the preferred embodiment of the invention is implemented by way of a single third generation communication network 31, having a core network section and other peripheral network units. Only the units that are pertinent to the present description are shown in Figure 1. In particular, the description that follows refers mainly to messaging and data flow that relates to establishment and implementation of accounting data for the purpose of charging a prepaid account. It will be understood that other messages and data are transmitted within the network to enable establishment of the call or data link, but these are well known in the art and have been omitted for clarity. It will also be appreciated that the word call is used in a broad sense within this specification and claims to include any type of channel or link that a user wishes to open, including video, image and sound channels, whether two-way or, uplink or downlink only.

The network core includes a GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) 32, an SGSN (Serving GPRS Support Node) 33, a P-CSCF (Proxy Call Service Control Function) 34, an S-CSCF (Serving Call Service Control Function) 35, an I-CSCF (Interrogating Call Service Control Function) 36 an Accounting Server/Credit Control Server (ACC/CCS) 37 and an Application Server (AS) 38. It will be appreciated that the ACC/CCS is specified in drafts of the Diameter IP protocol. However, the ACC/CCS can also be considered a Charging Control Point (CCP) incorporating a Charging Control Function (CCF). In other words, they act as a prepaid server.

A first terminal in the form of a caller UE 30 is within the network service area and is attempting to establish a call to a second terminal in the form of a receiving UE 39. The user of the first terminal has previously established a prepaid credit account with the network service provider. The intention of prepaid credit account is to ensure that a user cannot incur costs that have not been prepaid. In this way, users are not surprised by large bills that can come about in post-paid situations, and the service providers can offer service without the need for investigating the credit-worthiness of a user.

For clarity, the actual details of the call establishment with caller UE 30 will be omitted, other than as they relate to the accounting procedures that relate to the invention. Similarly, the general functions of most of the units in Figure 1 are well known and will not be described in detail here.

The network of Figure 1 is an all-IP (internet protocol) network. In the illustrated case, it is assumed that the network is the caller UE 30 subscriber's home network and that the receiver UE 39 is also located within the same network, for the purposes of simplicity. However, it will be readily be understood by those skilled in the art how the preferred embodiment can be extended to cover situations in which either or both of the UEs 30 and 39 are not within the home network of the UE 30 (ie, one or both of the UEs are "roaming"). Such a scenario is described in the context of post-pay accounting in the applicant's UK patent application number 0112202.7.

It will also be understood that the particular components shown within Figure 1 can be distributed across a number of networks. Again, the way in which this can be  
5 achieved will be well understood by those skilled in the art, and so is not described in detail here.

In general terms, the S-CSCF of a subscriber's home network acts to collect notices of charges levied for the  
10 activities of a subscriber to that network, or as a gateway to a unit that does so. The CSCFs of the system of Figure 1 operate so as to facilitate charging in the system, as will now be described in detail.

15 By way of a simple overview of the invention, Figure 3 shows the way in which SIP data flow horizontally between network entities within the different domains, whilst accounting data flows vertically and uses the Diameter protocol.

20

When the user of UE 30 wishes to establish a call to UE 39, the following steps take place.

1. The user of UE 30 initiates the call, causing  
25 terminal 30 to transmit an INVITE message to the S-CSCF 35, requesting for the initiation of a call with UE 39. The signalling to establish the call itself is performed in the normal way. The S-CSCF 35 inserts the following information into the INVITE message:

30

GS\_ID  
CG\_ADDRESS  
ACC\_S\_ADDRESS.

The GS\_ID is a global session ID, which is used to allow combining of different accounting sessions. CG\_ADDRESS is the address of the default Charging Gateway.

5 ACC\_S\_ADDRESS is the address of the default ACC/CCS server, which acts as a prepaid server.

2. The S-CSCF 35 sends the following accounting request (Diameter) to the ACC/CCS 37:

10       Accounting-Request:  
          <Session-Id>= 1  
          [Accounting-Record-Type] = START\_PP  
          [Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID  
          [Subscription-Id] = exists  
15       [Time-Stamp] = exists

3. The ACC/CCS 37 sends the following Accounting-Answer (in Diameter protocol) to the S-CSCF 35. The ACC/CCS 37 will do the tariffing and rating and money reservation

20 from the actual account.

          Accounting-Answer:  
          <Session-Id> = 1  
          [Accounting-Record-Type] = START\_PP  
          [Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID  
25       [Accounting-Interim-Interval] = 30s  
          [Subscription-Id] = exists

4. The S-CSCF 35 sends an INVITE (SIP) to Application Server AS 38, including the following information:

30       GS\_ID  
          CG\_ADDRESS  
          ACC\_S\_ADDRESS.

5. The AS 38 sends an Accounting-Request (Diameter) to the ACC/CCS 37, as follows. The AS 38 doesn't know the cost of its service.

Accounting-Request:

5     <Session-Id> = 2  
      [Accounting-Record-Type] = EVENT\_PP  
      [Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID  
      [Subscription-Id] = exists  
      [Time-Stamp] = exists  
10    [Service-Parameter-Info] = exists

6. The ACC/CCS 37 sends an Accounting-Answer (Diameter) to AS 38, as follows:

Accounting-Answer:

15    <Session-Id> = 2  
      [Accounting-Record-Type] = EVENT\_PP  
      [Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID

7. The AS 38 sends an INVITE (SIP) to S-CSCF 35

20

8. The S-CSCF 35 sends an INVITE (SIP) message to I-CSCF 36.

9. The I-CSCF 36 sends a 200OK message (SIP) to S-CSCF

25    35.

10. The S-CSCF 35 sends a 200OK (SIP) to the subscriber's UE 30.

30 11. The subscriber's UE 30 sends a secondary PDP context to GGSN 32.

12. The GGSN 32 sends an Auth Request to P-CSCF 34.

13. The P-CSCF 34 sends an Auth Response to GGSN 32, including the following information:

GS\_ID  
5 CG\_ADDRESS  
ACC\_S\_ADDRESS.

14. The GGSN 32 sends an Accounting-Request (Diameter) to ACC/CCS 37, as follows:

10 Accounting-Request:  
<Session-Id> = 3  
[Accounting-Record-Type] = START\_PP  
[Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID  
[Subscription-Id] = exists  
15 [Time- Stamp] = exists

15. The ACC/CCS 37 sends an Accounting-Answer (Diameter) to GGSN 32. ACC/CCS 37 will do the tariffing and rating and money reservation from actual account. In this phase  
20 the session is about to be established so ACC/CSS 37 has been able to do final rating for GSN nodes (IMS, AS and GPRS combination effects to tariff/rate).

The accounting answer is as follows:

25 Accounting-Answer:  
<Session-Id> = 3  
[Accounting-Record-Type] = START\_PP  
[Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID  
[Accounting-Interim-Interval] = 30s  
30 [Subscription-Id] = exists

16. ACT secondary PDP context accepted from GGSNs to UE  
30.

17. COMET (SIP) from UE 30 to S-CSCF 35.

18. Accounting-Request (Diameter) from S-CSCF 35 to  
5 ACC/CCS 37, as follows:

Accounting-Request:

<Session-Id> = 1

[Accounting-Record-Type] = UPDATE\_PP

[Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID

10 [Subscription-Id] = exists

[Time-Stamp] = exists

19. Accounting-Answer (Diameter) from ACC/CCS 37 to S-  
CSCF 35.

15

ACC/CCS 37 will do the tariffing/rating and money  
reservation from actual account. The accounting answer  
is as follows:

Accounting-Answer:

20 <Session-Id> = 1

[Accounting-Record-Type] = UPDATE\_PP

[Accounting-Multi-Session-Id] = GS\_ID

[Accounting-Interim-Interval] = 90s

[Subscription-Id] = exists

25

NOTE: Steps 20-23 are only undertaken if AS is not in  
one-time mode.

20. COMET (SIP) from S-CSCF 35 to AS 38.

30

21. Accounting-Request (Diameter) from AS 38 to ACC/CCS  
37.

22. *Accounting-Answer (Diameter) from ACC/CCS 37 to AS*  
38.

23. *COMET (SIP) from AS 38 to S-CSCF 35.*

5

24. *COMET (SIP) from S-CSCF 35 to I-CSCF 36.*

25. *200OK (SIP) from I-CSCF 36 to S-CSCF 35.*

10 26. *200OK (SIP) from S-CSCF 35 to UE 30.*

The protocol being used in the example is the AAA  
(Authentication, Authorization and Accounting) extension  
of the Diameter IP protocol. Currently with the existing  
15 Diameter solution there is no difference between post-  
paid and prepaid accounts. To enable handling of prepaid  
accounts in accordance with the preferred embodiment, the  
AAA extension has been modified to include the following  
record types: START\_PP, STOP\_PP, EVENT\_PP and UPDATE\_PP.

20

The first three record types correlate generally with the  
START, STOP and EVENT record types already in use in the  
protocol. However, there is no record type currently  
proposed or in use that corresponds with the UPDATE  
25 record type described above. The purpose of the new  
UPDATE record type is to allow polling of the various  
accounting clients by the ACC/CCS.

The UPDATE record type can be used to change the tariff  
30 of the already established session. This functionality is  
needed when different domains interact with each other,  
such as when actions within the PS affect the IMS domain  
charges. In current IETF drafts this factor has not been



taken into account. The absence of an update function within the present proposed protocol means it is not possible to update ongoing accounting sessions, and so sponsorship-like charging plans or any other more complicated charging plans can not be implemented.

In each case, the new \_PP extension makes it clear to the entities that are receiving the record types that they are related to prepaid accounts, which must be treated differently to post-paid accounts. This new extension distinguishes post and prepaid mechanisms, thereby decreasing the signalling load. The new extensions distinguish post and prepaid mechanisms, thereby decreasing the amount of logical functionality needed in the server side.

15

Once the steps listed above have taken place and been acknowledged, traffic data can be transferred between UEs 30 and 39, in this case via the GGSN 32.

20 A single third generation network may include a number of elements that can generate charging data that are relevant to the invention. These may be members of the IMS (IP multimedia subsystem) of the network, for instance the P-CSCF, S-CSCF, I-CSCF, BGCF (breakout gateway control function) and MGCF (multimedia gateway control function), or members of the PS (packet-switched) domain, for instance the SGSN and GGSN. The charging data generated by the IP and PS domains may include different data. For example, a CDR generated by the GGSN  
25  
30 (known as a G-CDR) typically includes information on the amount of packet-switched data transferred during the call, since the tariff for a packet-switched connection may be based on the amount of data transferred; whereas

charges generated by the P-CSCF may include information on the time taken for the call, since the tariff for an IP connection may be based on that factor. If a call makes use of both IP and PS connections then it is possible that multiple charging data may be generated for the call, and the result of this may be that a user is charged twice for the same call. To avoid this, the network may be arranged so that the IP and PS domains of the network cooperate so that charging data is not duplicated in this way.

A similar addition to charging information may be used in case of other applications too, suitably for content-based charging purposes.

15

As an alternative, the GGSN may also indicate to the P-CSCF that it will generate charging data. In that case there would be no need to create such data in the IP multimedia subsystem itself.

20

Although the invention has been described with reference to a number of specific examples, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the invention can be embodied in many other forms.

25

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of charging against prepaid credit in a communication network, the method comprising the steps  
5 of:  
    requesting establishment of a call between a first terminal and a second terminal;  
    ascertaining whether any costs generated by accounting clients in the network, and associated with  
10 the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit;  
    in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, establishing an accounting session between an accounting server and the accounting client that will generate the costs to be  
15 charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier;  
    establishing the call with the second terminal;  
    sending charging update data from the accounting client to the accounting server during the call; and  
20 collating the charging update data in the accounting server on the basis of the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.
- 25 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call, the method including the steps of;  
    establishing accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and the accounting server,  
30 each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established;

sending charging update data from each of the accounting clients to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier; and

5       collating the charging update data from each of the accounting clients on the basis of the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

10   3.   A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the accounting server is located in the home network of the first terminal;

4.   A method according to any one of the preceding  
15   claims, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

SGSN/GGSN;

S-CSCF/P-CSCF; and

a network application server.

20

5.   A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

25

6.   A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message sent from the first terminal.

30

7.   A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the charging update data is sent from the

accounting clients to the accounting server via a Diameter protocol message.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the charging  
5 update data is sent from each accounting client to the accounting client in response to a Diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the accounting  
10 server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding  
claims, wherein the step of ascertaining whether costs  
15 are to be charged against prepaid credit includes the step of looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

11. A method according to any one of the preceding  
20 claims, wherein the network is an IP-network.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the network is a UMTS network.

25 13. Communication network apparatus configured to allow charging against prepaid credit in relation to a first terminal, the network including an accounting server and an accounting client capable of generating costs associated with a service in the network, the network  
30 being configured to:

accept a request from the first terminal for establishment of a call between the first terminal and a second terminal;

ascertain whether any costs generated by accounting clients in the network, and associated with the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, establish an accounting session between the accounting server and the accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier; and

10 establish the call with the second terminal;

wherein the accounting client is configured to send charging update data to the accounting server during the call; and

the accounting server is configured to collate the charging update data on the basis of the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

14. Communication network apparatus according to claim 13, including a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call, the network being configured to;

establish accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and the accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established;

wherein each of the accounting clients is configured to send charging update data to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier; and

the accounting server is configured to collate the charging update data from each of the accounting clients

on the basis of the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

5 15. Communication network apparatus according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the accounting server is located in the home network of the first terminal;

16. Communication network apparatus according to any one  
10 of claims 13 to 15, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

SGSN/GGSN;

S-CSCF/P-CSCF; and

a network application server.

15

17. Communication network apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 16, configured such that the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from  
20 the first terminal.

18. Communication network apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)  
25 message sent from the first terminal.

19. Communication network apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 18, wherein the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server  
30 via a Diameter protocol message.

20. Communication network apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the charging update data is sent from each

accounting client to the accounting client in response to a Diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

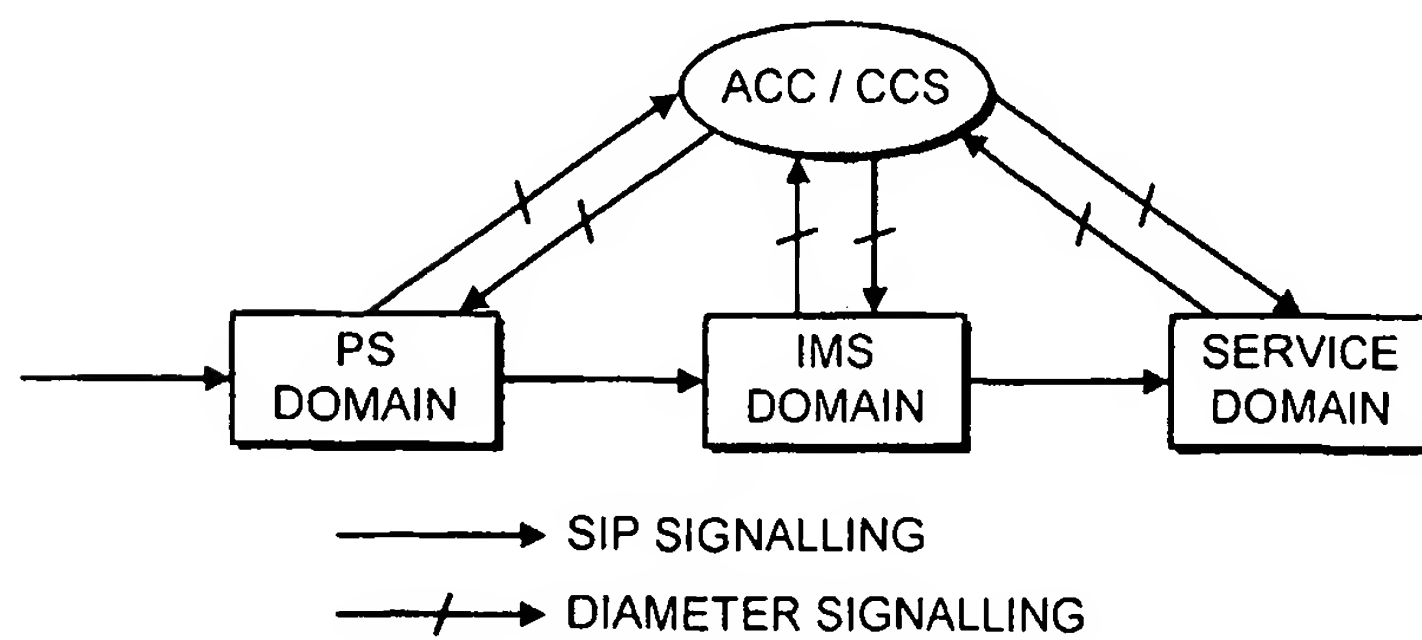
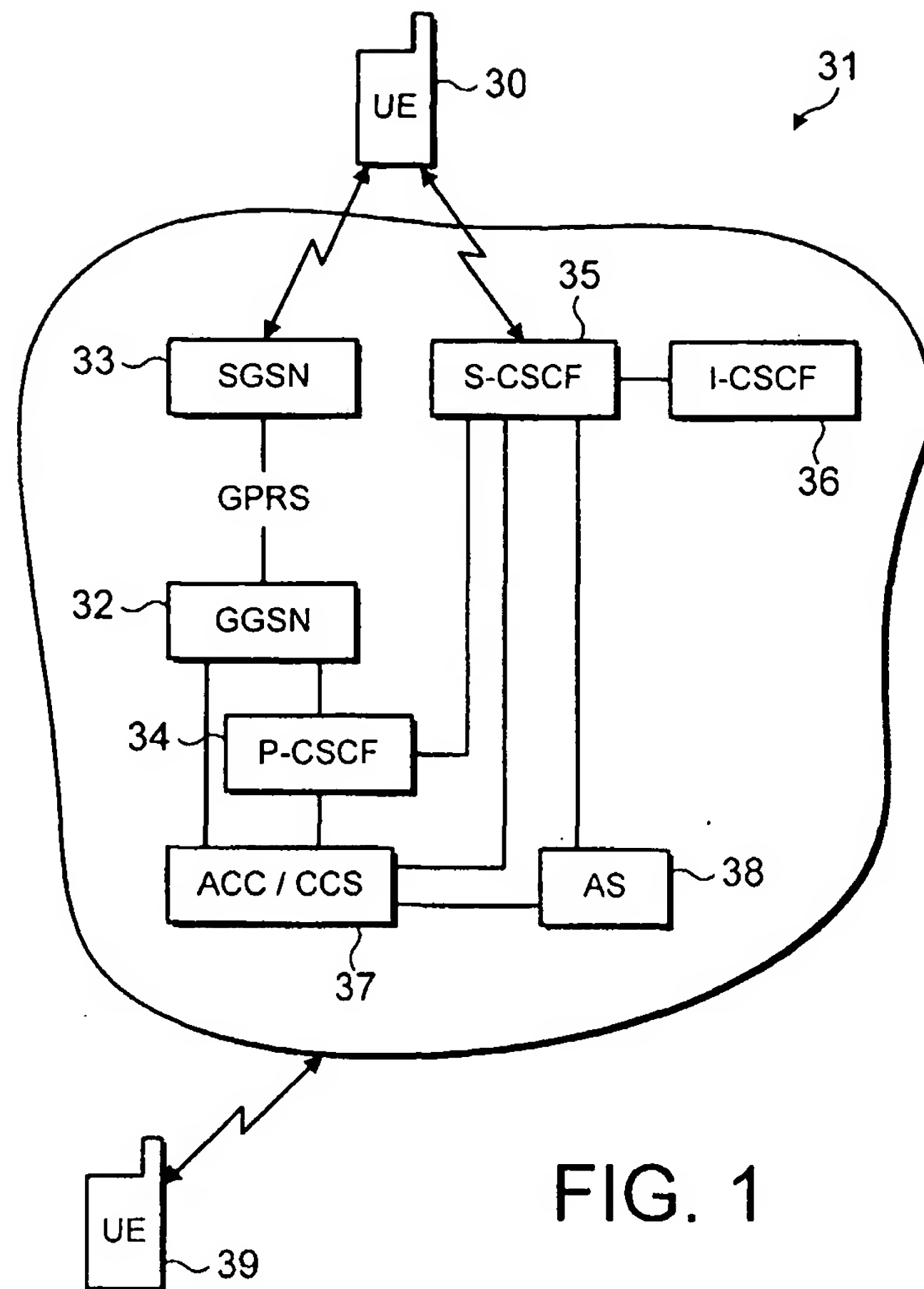
5 21. Communication network apparatus according to claim 20 wherein the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

10 22. Communication network apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 21, configured to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

15 23. Communication network apparatus according to any one of claims 13 to 22, wherein the network is an IP-network.

24. Communication network apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the network is a UMTS network.





2 / 2

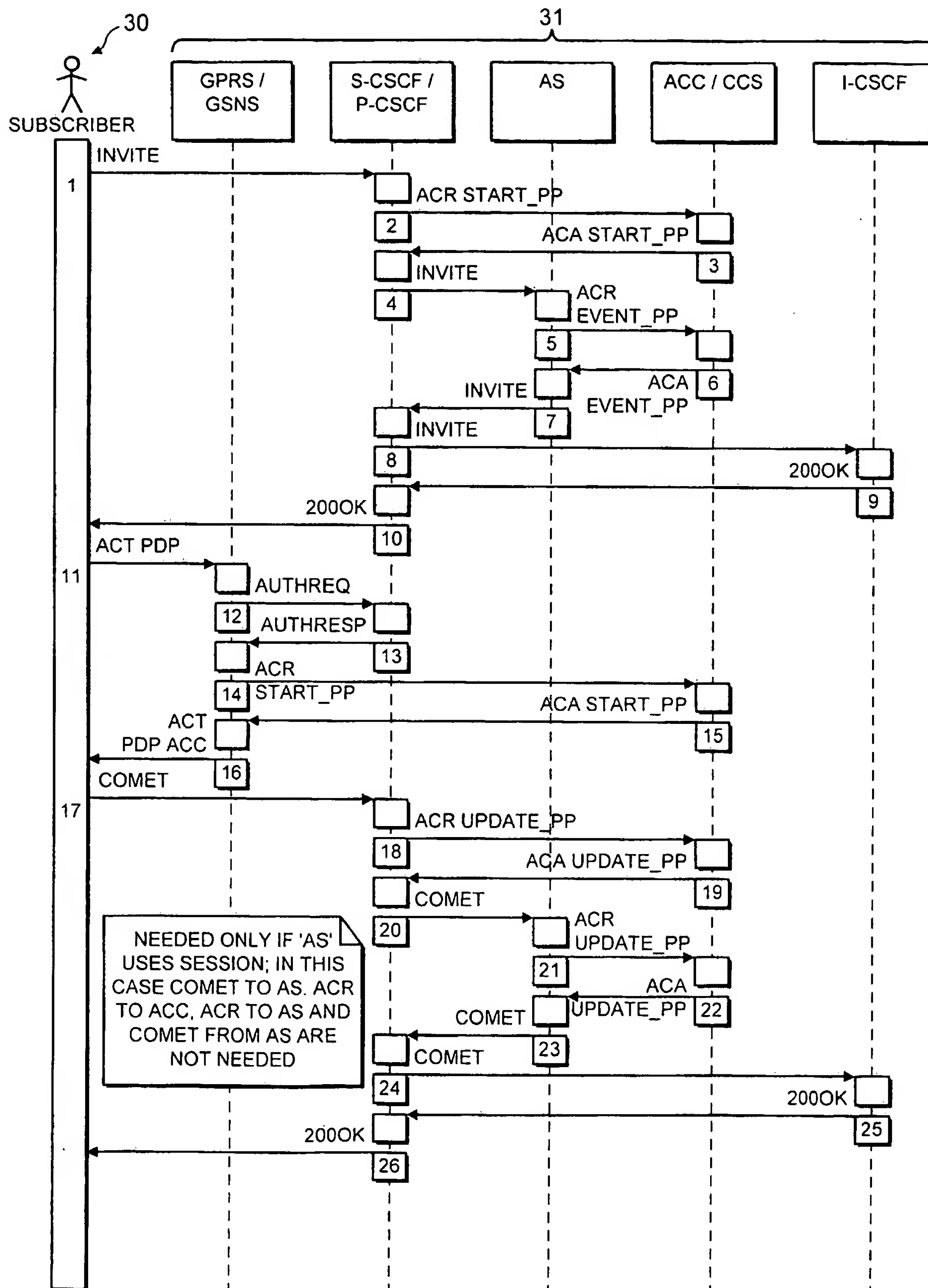


FIG. 2

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 02/00795

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: H04Q 7/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 0201847 A1 (TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON (PUBL)), 3 January 2002 (03.01.02), page 12, line 7 - line 11; page 5, line 23 - line 27; page 8, line 17 - page 9, line 3, page 10, line 1-20; page 13, line 19-27; page 15, line 7-19; page 16, line 29-page 17, line 15 --	1-5,10-17, 22-24
X	WO 0069118 A1 (TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON (PUBL)), 16 November 2000 (16.11.00), page 1, line 27 - page 2, line 28; page 2, line 30 - page 3, line 10 --	1,4,13,16
E,X	WO 0215554 A1 (SONERA OYJ), 21 February 2002 (21.02.02), page 5, line 29 - page 6, line 10; page 12, line 20 - line 26 --	1,3-5,10-13, 15-17,22-24

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 Sept 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

04.10.2002

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Ann Börjeson/EK

Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 02/00795

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 0024161 A1 (NOKIA NETWORKS OY), 27 April 2000 (27.04.00), abstract  -- -----	1-24

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

SA 398724

Information on patent family members

06/07/02

International application No.

PCT/IB 02/00795

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO	0201847	A1	03/01/02	AU	7058701 A	08/01/02
				EP	1168806 A	02/01/02
-----						
WO	0069118	A1	16/11/00	AU	4789500 A	21/11/00
				EP	1177655 A	06/02/02
-----						
WO	0215554	A1	21/02/02	AU	8219101 A	25/02/02
				FI	20001788 A	15/02/02
-----						
WO	0024161	A1	27/04/00	AU	6343999 A	08/05/00
				EP	1123606 A	16/08/01
				FI	982263 D	00/00/00
				FI	982748 A	20/04/00
-----						